

Application No.: 10/009,336Docket No.: 2729-117REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 2-7 and 9-15 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 2-7 and 9-17 are pending in the instant application. Rejected claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Allowable claims 2, 3, 5 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of base claim 1 or 8. Claims 2-7 and 9-15 have also been amended to improve claim language. New claims 16-17 including the limitations of original claims 3 and 5 and depending from allowable claim 2 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. New claims 16-17 should therefore be considered patentable. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and art rejections manifested in the Office Action are believed overcome in view of the above amendments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance and early indication of same is courteously solicited.

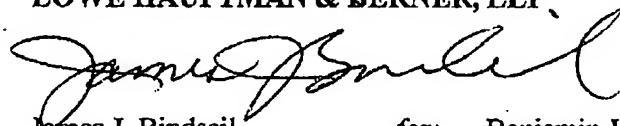
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

**LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP.**



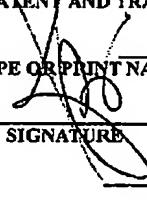
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